



February, 1980

Volume 5, No. 10

Wales seminar; a good beginning

Four BCI staff members attended the Blissymbolics Resource Center Seminar held at Craig-y-Parc School, Penttyrch Cardiff, Wales in October.

Bill Robson, Elizabeth Thornton, Shirley McNaughton, and Jinny Storr were joined by Penny Parnes, Director of the Blissymbolics Communication Service. In addition, there were representatives from western Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Holland, Sweden, Switzerland, the U.S., and the United Kingdom.

BCI wishes to express its appreciation to everyone who helped make the seminar such an enjoyable and constructive event.

The following are the preliminary agreements and decisions that resulted from the Wales meeting.

1. In Europe, any group associated with BCI will be termed a Blissymbolics Communication Centre. This title replaces the former designations of Resource Centre and Affiliate.
2. Two Blissymbolics Communication Centres have been designated experienced or mature centres, and may act as resources and consultants to less experienced European centres.
 1. Blissymbolics Communication Centre (United Kingdom).
 2. Blissymbolics Communication Centre (Sweden) representing the Nordic Committee.
3. A European Secretariat is to be established to facilitate the exchange of information regarding the use of Blissymbolics on the continent and in the United Kingdom.

The Secretariat's role will be studied and defined by the Blissymbolics Communication Centre in co-operation with the European groups and BCI. Initially, it has been identified as a secretariat to provide a postal address for the collation and dissemination of information between European centres, to provide the link with BCI, and to hold the register of European centres using Blissymbolics.

4. Blissymbolics Communication Centres' responsibilities will include:

Administrative Responsibilities

1. To develop structure to meet local needs.
2. To raise funds to meet local needs.
3. To develop an active Associate Membership program for the

country or region.

4. To participate in the annual meeting of the European Blissymbolics Communication Centres.

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Participants in the seminar were guests at a medieval dinner held near this spot, Cardiff Castle, Wales.

Management gains program expertise

Recognizing a need for more program-related expertise at management level, BCI welcomes Shirley McNaughton as Director of Professional Services and Sachi Tamura as Director of Training.

As Director of Professional Services, Shirley will help develop policy and implement programs related to training. She will also provide technical and professional liaison with individuals in the field.

Shirley's experience in initiating the Service adds to her broad Blissymbol-related knowledge and qualifies her well for the new position with BCI. As Director of Professional Services, Shirley will help develop policy and implement programs related to training. She will also provide technical and professional liaison with individuals in the field.

Sachi Tamura brings to the role of Director of Training more than three years experience developing the Greater Victoria Blissymbols program in BC. In addition, Sachi has worked as a BCI Senior Presenter.

BCI looks forward to the valuable knowledge and experience both Shirley and Sachi bring to their new roles.

The Blissymbols Communication Service will continue with Penny Parnes as Director. We all wish Penny great success.

A note to members

BCI recognizes the impossibility of keeping you up-to-date on all areas concerning the Service. The Bulletin and the Newsletter are very specialized publications and simply cannot provide adequate space for that kind of extensive coverage.

Therefore, we suggest that BCI be permitted to distribute the Associate Membership mailing list to a few carefully selected agencies and publications. We would choose only those organizations that could provide our readers with additional, relevant material.

However, the final choice is yours. If, for any reason, you wish not to have your name and address released please let us know prior to April 15.

Forward a brief note to Carol Barrett, Editor, BCI.

BCI acts as info centre

The BCI wishes to make available to associate members, via the Bulletin, Newsletter, reference library, and correspondence, the information it acquires.

If you are aware of or involved with Blissymbols through research and development, or the application of innovative classroom and clinical programs, we invite you to contribute information. Please forward material to Shirley McNaughton and indicate to what extent you want it shared with others. You will be notified as to how the BCI is disseminating your submissions.

The following information is now available to associate members upon request:

1. Paper presented at VOCA conference, Berkeley, Shirley McNaughton, May, 1980.
2. The Personal Computer and Blissymbols; Shirley McNaughton.

Shirley McNaughton reviews BCI 80, previews 1981

Associate Members,

In my new position as Director of Professional Services, I look forward to interacting with professionals on matters related to Blissymbols and augmentative Communication.

Upon receiving 1980, I report that BCI's major professional activities included:

1. Representation at the VOCA (Vocal Output Communication Aid) conference hosted by T.S.I. and held at Berkeley.
2. Co-sponsoring the first non-speech conference ever held in Canada.
3. Participating in the World Congress of Rehabilitation International. BCI presented both a paper and a panel discussion between five Blissymbol users.
4. Participating in a one-week Alternate Systems Course held at Castle Priory, Wellingford, England.
5. Anticipate that 1981 will bring:
 1. Further developing of BCI training programs.
 2. Ongoing communication with those involved in research projects.
 3. Growth of the BCI reference library.
 4. Providing consultation on the use of Blissymbols with technical aids and computers.

Symbol panel

New vocabulary must meet users' needs

An International Panel on Standards for Blissymbols, whose members serve on a volunteer basis, advises BCI on the development of the symbol system and creation of new symbol vocabulary.

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Non-speech conference report

The three-day non-speech conference, recently held in Toronto, provided its audience with an interesting continuity of attitude.

From Bill Robson's welcoming comments to Eugene MacDonald's eloquent conclusion, one very important idea prevailed. That idea is simply that each non-speaking person is unique and, therefore, no one communication system can possibly fulfill the needs of every individual.

Within this context, 19 speakers presented a program of topics including visual and manual communication systems, selection and application of systems technical aids and devices and the state of the field in general. Among the speakers speaking were the leaders in non-speech communication. Nine presenters were Canadian, one British, and nine American.

The conference, sponsored by BCI and the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, attracted 514 participants, far surpassing the planning committee's expectations.

In his opening address, OISE's Chairman of Special Education Dr. Peter Lindsay, noted that one person travelled all the way from Ethiopia to attend the conference. Participants came from many parts of Canada and the United States. In addition, professionals from Great

Britain, Sweden, Italy, and Australia provided a broad range of perspectives, most evident during the informal sessions held on the first evening and the second day.

Evolution forms were distributed to the audience during the final day of the conference, giving people an opportunity to comment on the program and make recommendations; 160 of these were returned.

The results of this survey were indeed cause for high spirits among BCI staff and the conference planning committee. Ninety per cent of those who responded found the conference valuable, and 90 per cent felt that another non-speech conference should be held within two years.

Other recommendations included an increase in the following, small special interest seminars, choice of session, detail, and practical information. It seems that, in general, participants would like to have received more comprehensive information.

Overall, BCI and the planning committee are very satisfied with the conference results. The committee, composed of Peter Lindsay and Shirley McNaughton (co-chairpersons), Penny Parnes, Peter Reich, Janice Barton, Stan Draffin and Christine Sylvester, is to be congratulated for organizing the first,

and definitely not the last, non-speech conference to be held in Canada. In fact, the committee is now working on a second conference planned for November 1982.

It is hoped that the spirit of future non-speech conferences will echo that of October's gathering. BCI feels proud to have co-sponsored a conference where so many non-speech communication systems were presented in an atmosphere of open-mindedness and understanding. We thank all who participated.

BCI hopes to have tapes of the conference presentations for inclusion in the reference library.

In addition, bibliographies for the talks given at the non-speech conference will be available through OISE. Please contact Dr. Peter Lindsay at OISE for further information. Forward inquiries to:

Peter Lindsay, Ph.D.
Chairman, Department of Special Education
Ontario Institute for Studies in Education
In Education
252 Bloor Street West
Toronto, Ontario

Conference Topic and Speakers
COMMUNICATION OVERVIEW
David Yoder, Ph.D.

scattered, business is conducted by mail through discussionnaires.

However, as an adjunct to the BCI Resource Centre meeting held in Cardiff, Wales, ten panel members were able to meet face-to-face.

The consensus of this gathering was that future development of the system and creation of new vocabulary must be based on the needs of symbol users. In order to respond effectively, BCI must learn from the field, as specifically as possible, what these needs are.

The Symbol Office, which co-ordinates the work of the International Panel needs answers to the following questions:

1. What populations are using symbols?
2. What are the special requirements of these populations?
3. What problems are instructors and users experiencing with the system or individual symbols?
4. What grammar and syntax are actually

being used in symbol communication? What combined symbols have users and instructors devised for missing vocabulary? This includes the rationale for the construction of combined symbols.

Please share with us your experiences with the Blissymbols system. Inform us of your vocabulary needs and offer some suggestions. When you do so, please provide a description of the kind of user with whom you work. Include chronological age, types and severity of disabilities, cognitive level, and method of accessing symbols.

The information you provide will be organized and passed on to the International Panel for consideration. Submit material to Mrs. Jimmy Storr, Director, Symbol Department, BCI.

Professor and Director of Clinic Department of Communicative Disorders University of Wisconsin (Madison)
VISUAL COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS
Overview
Dr. Richard Foulds
Tufte - New England Medical Centre Biomedical Engineering Centre
Boston
Ena Davies, LCST
National Advisor, Blissymbols Communication Resource Centre (UK)
Word & Picture Boards
Eugene T. McDonald, Ed.E.
Consultant in Speech Pathology & Psychology
Home of the Merciful Saviour for Crippled Children
Philadelphia, Pa.
Blissymbols
Shirley McNaughton, M.Ed.
Director, Blissymbols Communication Service, Ontario Crippled Children's Centre
Rebus
Charlotte Clarke, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Special Education, University of Kentucky
Total Communication
Ross Stuckless, Ph.D.
Professor & Director, Office of Integrated Research

'Update' changes benefit BCI associate members

The Training Department has recently introduced several significant changes in an effort to improve Update training and to increase benefits to associate members.

Update worksheets will be available free of charge to those Associate Members who participated in a BCI Elementary Workshop prior to June 1980. These workshops are designed to familiarize participants with the Blissymbol alphabet and to assist in utilizing Blissymbols for Use. Non-members will pay a fee of \$5.00 for the worksheets.

In addition, the BCI encourages hosting centres to include a one-day Update session either before or after an Elementary Workshop. The Update session provides participants with an opportunity to view new films and video tapes, take part in updated syntax and drawing seminars, and to discuss matters related to new BCI publications and

products. A list of these sessions is enclosed with the current workshop schedule. Associate Members pay \$15.00 to attend the Update session. Non-members are charged \$25.00.

After completing the worksheets and/or an Update session, individuals may choose to write the new (June 1980) examination. Those who successfully complete this exam receive 1981 Update seals for their certificates. This option is available only to those who previously fulfilled BCI certification requirements. The fee for Associate Members is \$10.00, while non-members pay \$30.00.

For further information on hosting or attending any of the above BCI training programs contact Sachi Tamura, Director of Training.

Material
BCI evaluates raised symbols
The BCI invites professionals to participate in the evaluation of Blissymbols in a raised-surface format. This project began when BCI was approached by Anthony Dipiano, a speech pathologist at the West Seneca Development Centre in New York. Anthony had several Blissymbols produced in the form of inverted rubber stamps and was using them most successfully with a blind non-speaking adult.

The BCI began receiving many requests for symbols in this format. Recently, BCI received funding from the National Research Council to produce 100 standard displays of 66 raised rubber symbols. Each square on the grid will be 1-1/4 inches square. The total

display will measure 15-1/2 x 21 inches. Raised flashcards of each symbol will also be offered. These have been successfully used by blind individuals who were Association for the Help of Retarded Children, New York, under the direction of Sue Sansone.

Any professionals who work with students who could benefit from feeling the shape of symbols while learning and using them, are invited by the BCI to assist in an evaluation study. Participants will be provided with the standard display, flashcards, and evaluation protocol. If this project is of interest, please contact Elizabeth Thornton, Project Officer, BCI, prior to March 31.

Training

Internship session planned for Fall

The BCI Internship program is a special training session designed to meet the needs of professionals who do not have access to a Blissymbols Communication Centre. For individuals will be selected to participate in this one-month program taking place September 22 through October 23.

The Internship program will include the following:

1. Elementary training session (includes exam and certification)
2. Observation and/or participation in clinical and classroom settings. This will cover assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation.
3. Professional services consultation.

For further information on hosting or attending any of the above BCI training programs contact Sachi Tamura, Director of Training.

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Standard system stays top priority

Continued from page 1

Professional Responsibilities

1. To maintain a unified Blissymbolics system and vocabulary, as approved by BCI, by submitting symbols intended for any form of public distribution. This applies to publications and teaching materials such as printed vocabulary displays or stamps, film and tape. Symbols are submitted for inspection and approval by;

1. BCI or

2. BCI approved monitors, representing the Blissymbolics Communication Centre (Wales) or

3. The Blissymbolics Communication Centre (Sweden)

2. To obtain approval from BCI of core content (as defined by BCI) of all training programs.

As of 1980-81, the core content of training programs developed by BCI, the Swedish, or the United Kingdom Committee, may be used in training programs administered by less experienced centres. Approval by BCI is required.

3. To ensure that translation of publications or communication and teaching materials is of the highest standard.
4. To develop, where practicable, communication and teaching materials to meet local needs.
5. To act as a clearing house for information regarding research in progress in the geographical region and to keep BCI informed of projects in progress and the findings of completed research.
6. To keep BCI informed of all Blissymbolics-related activities and developments in the geographical area. This includes, but is not limited to:

1. An annual report of activities. This includes the topics discussed above or other relevant matters.
2. Copies of local Blissymbolics publications such as newsletters or bulletins.
3. Reports of meetings, training programs, or other activities conducted jointly with other Blissymbolics Communication Centres.



The seminar included representatives from Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Holland, Sweden, Switzerland, the U.S., and the United Kingdom.

5. The BCI's major responsibilities will include.

Administrative Responsibilities

1. To seek funds for international programs, training, research, and other activities related to the application of Blissymbolics.
2. To assist in the development of a European Secretariat which will act as a communication link throughout Europe.
3. To assist in the establishment of new European Blissymbolics Communication Centres.
4. To assist in arrangements for and preparation of an agenda for the annual meeting of European Blissymbolics Communication Centres.
5. To keep European Blissymbolics Communication Centres informed of developments relating to Blissymbolics in North America and elsewhere.

Professional Responsibilities

1. To maintain a unified Blissymbolics system for the handicapped and to develop it on an ongoing basis by:
 1. Inspecting and authorizing symbols for distribution to the public.
 2. Co-ordinating the work of the International Panel on Standards for Blissymbolics.
2. To keep abreast of developments in other augmentative systems in order to relate these to the application of Blissymbolics.

3. To assist in the development of training programs of high quality by:

1. Approving core content (as defined by BCI) of training programs of experienced Blissymbolics Communication Centres.
2. Assisting new Blissymbolics Communication Centres during early stages of developing training and other programs.

4. To develop communication and teaching aids and publications suited for international use and distribution.

5. To act as a consultant regarding the translation of materials into different languages.

6. Joint responsibilities of the BCI and Blissymbolics Communication Centres include:

Maintaining a unified Blissymbolics Systems.

Training

1. To ensure highest quality in all areas.

Research

1. Definition of needs.
2. Consultation and encouragement.
3. Maintenance of liaison regarding research in progress and funding of projects.
4. When feasible, assist in securing funding.

Information

1. To disseminate, in all cases, information relating to Blissymbolics.

Up & coming

Madge Skelly is presenting an **Amer-Ind workshop** at Chedoke-McMaster Hospital, April 1-4. This event is sponsored by Chedoke's Department of Communication Disorders. Those interested should contact:

Jane Eaid,
McLean Building, Chedoke -
McMaster Hospital
Box 2000, Station A
Hamilton, Ontario
L8N 3Z5

Technology for Blissymbolics will be the subject of an international conference to be held May 14-15 at the University of Surrey in the U.K. This event is sponsored by the Biological Engineering Society and the U.K. Blissymbolics Communication Resource Centre.

The conference will include paper presentations and discussion groups. Contributions on the following topics are invited: interfaces, displays, the use of television, synthetic speech, low technology. There will also be a session for free papers.

Discussions will be held on such topics as: standardization, assessment, training and teaching aids.

Abstracts of 200 words should be submitted by Feb. 28, 1981 to:

Dr. A.G. Cartwright,
Dept. of Mechanical Engineering,
University of Surrey,
Guildford, Surrey, GU2 5XH
Phone: Guildford 71281, Ext. 441

Applications forms for Conference places are available from:

Mrs. J.F. Pollard
Short Courses Organiser
Bureau of Industrial and External Liaison
University of Surrey,
Guildford, Surrey, GU2 5XH
Phone: Guildford 71281, Ext. 457

Premises, premises

He told me
The premise to all communication
Is that it does not exist.

I told him
It was one premise too many.

Claudio Gaudio
From Piece Pedowie, Pedowie Publishing

BCI position open

The BCI continues to search for an appropriate person to succeed Symbol Department Director, Jinny Storr. The chosen candidate will assume this challenging position following a successful one-year probationary period of in-service training.

The Symbol Department is central to the work of BCI. Therefore, we wish to provide potential applicants with a more detailed job summary than was presented last issue.

The Symbol Department Director is responsible for maintaining a standard Blissymbolics system for use by communicatively-impaired individuals. In connection with the ongoing development of the system, the director co-ordinates the work of the International Panel on Standards for Blissymbolics and maintains liaison with professionals, symbol-users, authors, researchers, and individuals working to develop technical aids.

Monitoring publications and materials containing Blissymbols is another responsibility, as are supervising the drafting of master symbols for new vocabulary and developing an archives.

Academic requirements for this position include a degree in a field such as Communication Disorders, Language Development, Speech, Special Education,

or Linguistics. Facility in one or more foreign languages would also be an asset.

Applicants should have three years experience in some phase of work with non-speaking individuals. Theoretical and practical knowledge of Blissymbolics would be an advantage. However, a willingness to learn the system, coupled with extensive general related knowledge would be acceptable.

The BCI is looking for someone who possesses a special set of qualifications. The selected applicant must have good management skills. He or she must also be prepared to devote meticulous attention to detail and bring to the job a combination of creativity, firmness, and diplomacy.

In-service training, on a part or full-time basis, will be arranged as soon as possible in accordance with the schedules of both BCI and the new staff member. The probationary period will consist of one year of full-time employment. It is hoped that the successful candidate will be ready to take over responsibility for the Symbol Department by 1982.

Salary is dependent on experience and qualifications. Send resumes to: Bill Robson, Chief Executive Officer, Blissymbolics Communication Institute, 350 Rumsey Road, Toronto, Ontario M4G 1R8.

Change of name

The oldest and largest children's charity in Canada has changed its name from the Ontario Society for Crippled Children to The Easter Seal Society.

The significant change from the former name to the current name is the dropping of the word 'crippled'.

"There has been growing concern about retaining a name which appeared to attach a label to the disabled individual", said Ian Bain, Executive Director of the Society. "Parents of disabled children and older disabled persons have expressed their regret at our retention of the word 'crippled'.

The Easter Seal Society provides a consultative nursing service to families across Ontario, annual diagnostic clinics in northern communities and much of the equipment - wheelchairs, braces, crutches and artificial limbs - used by disabled children. The Society owns and operates five camps at London, Port Colborne, Perth, Kirkland Lake and Collingwood where more than 1,000 disabled children spend summer holidays. The Society also provides substantial support for the Ontario Crippled Children's Centre, the Conn Smythe Research Foundation and the BCI.

Staff update

Sue Cook, from Accounts Receivable Clerk to Workshop Co-ordinator, Training. Grace Dodds to Secretary, Communication and Teaching Aids - Marketing. Joyce Hendrikson to Accounts Receivable Clerk, Communication and Teaching Aids - Marketing. Shirley McNaughton to Director of Professional Services. Jean Rahmey to Secretary, Symbol Department. Sachi Tamura to Director of Training. Georgina Westdyke to Secretary, Training.



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The Bulletin is a publication for the staff and associate members of the Blissymbolics Communication Institute. Editor, Carol Barrett

Send letters, suggestions and news items to:

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